

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A blow molded container, comprising:
~~an inner a-first layer of plastic suitable for blow molding;~~
~~an outer a-second layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said first layer~~
~~inner layer, said second layer outer layer of plastic formed as a foam wherein~~
~~the foam cells contain one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen; and~~
a threaded portion formed at an end of the container adapted to receive a cooperating closure.
2. (Currently Amended) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein
~~the first layer said inner layer~~ of plastic comprises a plastic selected from the group consisting of polyesters, acrylonitrile acid esters, vinyl chlorides, polyolefins, polyamides, and derivatives, blends, and copolymers thereof.
3. (Currently Amended) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein
~~the first layer said inner layer~~ of plastic comprises a polyester.
4. (Currently Amended) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein
~~the first layer said inner layer~~ of plastic comprises polyethylene terephthalate.

5. (Currently Amended) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein
~~the second layer~~ said outer layer of plastic comprises a plastic selected from the group consisting of polyesters, acrylonitrile acid esters, vinyl chlorides, polyolefins, polyamides, and derivatives, blends, and copolymers thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein
~~the second layer~~ said outer layer of plastic comprises a polyester.

7. (Currently Amended) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein
~~the second layer~~ said outer layer of plastic comprises polyethylene terephthalate.

8. (Currently Amended) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein
~~the first and second layers~~ said outer layer of plastic and said inner layer of plastic are the same.

9. (Currently Amended) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein
~~the first and second layers~~ said outer layer of plastic and said inner layer of plastic are different.

10. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein the foam cells contain a gas comprising a gas selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, argon, air, and blends and derivatives thereof.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A multilayer preform for forming a blow molded container, comprising:

~~a first layer~~ an inner layer of plastic suitable for blow molding;

~~a second layer~~ an outer layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said ~~first~~ layer inner layer, said ~~second layer~~ outer layer of plastic formed as a foam wherein the foam cells contain one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen; and

a threaded portion formed at an end of the preform adapted to receive a cooperating closure.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A reheat stretch blow molded container, comprising:

~~a first layer~~ an inner layer of plastic suitable for blow molding;

~~a second layer~~ an outer layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said ~~first~~ layer inner layer, said ~~second layer~~ outer layer of plastic formed as a foam wherein the foam cells contain one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen; and

a threaded portion formed at an end of the container adapted to receive a cooperating closure.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A multilayer preform for forming a blow molded container, comprising:

~~a first~~ an inner layer of plastic; and

~~a second~~ an outer layer of foamed plastic contacting said first inner layer, said first inner layer and said second outer layer formed by injection of a fluid gas in a supercritical state into a single melt of plastic to produce a multi-layered preform for blow molding, wherein foam cells formed in said second outer layer contain the fluid gas.

39. (Previously Presented) The preform of Claim 38, further comprising a threaded portion formed at an end of the container adapted to receive a cooperating closure.

40. (Currently Amended) The preform of Claim 38, wherein said first inner layer and said second outer layer comprise a plastic selected from the group consisting of polyesters, acrylonitrile acid esters, vinyl chlorides, polyolefins, polyamides, and derivatives, blends, and copolymers thereof.

41. (Currently Amended) The preform of Claim 38, wherein said first inner layer and said second outer layer comprise polyethylene terephthalate.

42. (Currently Amended) The preform of Claim 38, wherein the supercritical fluid is a gas comprises comprising a gas selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, argon, air, and blends and derivatives thereof.

43. (Currently Amended) The preform of Claim 38, further comprising a third layer of plastic contacting said second inner layer of plastic, said third layer of plastic formed as a non-foamed layer.

44. (Currently Amended) The preform of Claim 38, wherein said first inner layer and said second outer layer are formed by a single melt of plastic.

45. (New) The blow molded container of Claim 1, wherein the container is blow molded from a multi-layered preform formed in a multi-step injection molding process.

46. (New) The blow molded container of Claim 1, wherein the container is blow molded from a multi-layered preform formed by a coextrusion process.

47. (New) The preform of Claim 22, wherein the preform is formed in a multi-step injection molding process.

48. (New) The preform of Claim 22, wherein the preform is formed by a coextrusion process.

49. (New) A blow molded container, comprising:
a first layer of plastic suitable for blow molding;
a second layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said first layer, said
second layer of plastic formed as a foam wherein the foam cells contain one of
carbon dioxide and nitrogen;
a third layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said second layer; and
a fourth layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting one of said first layer
and said third layer.

50. (New) The blow molded container of Claim 49, wherein said fourth layer of
plastic is formed as a foam wherein the foam cells contain one of carbon dioxide and
nitrogen.

51. (New) The blow molded container of Claim 49, further including a fifth layer of
plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said fourth layer.

52. (New) A multilayer preform for forming a blow molded container, comprising:
a first layer plastic suitable for blow molding;
a second layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said first layer, said
second layer of plastic formed as a foam wherein the foam cells contain one of
carbon dioxide and nitrogen;
a third layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said second layer; and
a fourth layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting one of said first layer
and said third layer.

53. (New) The preform of Claim 52, wherein said fourth layer of plastic is formed as a
foam wherein the foam cells contain one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen.

54. (New) The preform of Claim 52, further including a fifth layer of plastic suitable
for blow molding contacting said fourth layer.

55. (New) A blow molded container, comprising:

- a first layer of plastic suitable for blow molding;
- a second layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said first layer;
- a third layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said second layer;
- a fourth layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said third layer; and
- a fifth layer of plastic of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said fourth layer, wherein at least one of the first layer, the second layer, the third layer, the fourth layer, and the fifth layer is formed as a foam wherein the foam cells contain one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen.

56. (New) A blow molded container, comprising:

- an outer layer of plastic suitable for blow molding, said outer layer of plastic formed as a foam wherein the foam cells contain one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen;
- a second layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said outer layer;
- a third layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said second layer, said third layer of plastic formed as a foam wherein the foam cells contain one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen;
- a fourth layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said third layer; and
- an inner layer of plastic of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said fourth layer, said inner layer of plastic formed as a foam wherein the foam cells contain one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen.

57. (New) A multilayer preform for forming a blow molded container, comprising:

- a first of plastic suitable for blow molding;
- a second layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said first layer;
- a third layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said second layer;
- a fourth layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said third layer; and
- a fifth layer of plastic of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said fourth layer, wherein at least one of the first layer, the second layer, the third layer, the fourth layer, and the fifth layer is formed as a foam wherein the foam cells contain one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen.

58. (New) The multilayer preform of Claim 58, wherein said first layer, said second layer, said third layer, said fourth layer, and said fifth layer are formed by injection of a gas in a supercritical state into a single melt of plastic to produce a multi-layered preform suitable for blow molding.

59. (New) A multilayer preform for forming a blow molded container, comprising:

- an outer layer of plastic suitable for blow molding, said outer layer of plastic formed as a foam wherein the foam cells contain one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen;
- a second layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said outer layer;
- a third layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said second layer, said third layer of plastic formed as a foam wherein the foam cells contain one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen;
- a fourth layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said third layer; and
- an inner layer of plastic of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said fourth layer, said inner layer of plastic formed as a foam wherein the foam cells contain one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen.

60. (New) The multilayer preform of Claim 59, wherein said first layer, said second layer, said third layer, said fourth layer, and said fifth layer are formed by injection of a gas in a supercritical state into a single melt of plastic to produce a multi-layered preform suitable for blow molding.